

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 06149 01 OF 02 221012Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /072 W

-----033237 221053Z /10

P R 220842Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5280

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 SEOUL 6149

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NXA

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, KS

SUBJECT: FAMILIES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS ISSUE STATEMENT CRITICAL  
OF ROKG

REF: SEOUL 6064 (200848Z JUL 77)

1. ON JULY 18, THE ASSOCIATION OF FAMILIES OF ARRESTED PERSONS  
ISSUED A STATEMENT COMMENTING ON THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS  
JULY 17. THE STATEMENT WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF ROKG HUMAN  
RIGHTS POLICIES, DEMANDED IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE  
OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS INCLUDING THOSE STILL IN JAIL FOR  
VIOLATING EM'S 1, 4 AND 9 AND THOSE CONVICTED OF ANTI-COMMUNIST  
LAW VIOLATIONS ON FABRICATED EVIDENCE. STATEMENT VOWED  
FAMILIES WOULD CONTINUE FIGHTING FOR COMPLETE RESTORATION  
OF DEMOCRACY AND DESCRIBED INCUMBENT REGIME AS "EVIL".

2. FAMILIES ASSOCIATION IS A GROUP OF ABOUT 25 TO 30  
RELATIVES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. MYONGDONG RELATIVES  
MOST PROMINENT IN GROUP, BUT RELATIONS OF SOME STUDENTS  
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 06149 01 OF 02 221012Z

AND OTHER EM-9 VIOLATORS ALSO INVOLVED. MRS. YUN PO-SUN  
IS CURRENT LEADER OF ASSOCIATION. STATEMENT HAS RECEIVED  
NO COVERAGE IN KOREAN MEDIA. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO SOURCES  
AT KNCC, KCIA HAS REMARKED THAT STATEMENT WAS NOT "HELPFUL".  
COMMENT: ASSOCIATION REPRESENTS SMALL MINORITY OF FAMILIES  
OF IMPRISONED AND, OF COURSE, IS DOMINATED BY THOSE MOST  
COMMITTED TO FARREACHING POLITICAL CHANGE IN KOREA.

3. TEST OF STATEMENT IS AS FOLLOWS:

"1. WE HEARTILY WELCOME THE RELEASED PERSONNEL. WHEN HUMAN CONSCIENCE WAS TRAMPLED UPON AND VOICES OF JUSTICE STRANGLERED BY THE ABSOLUTE POWER IN ONE MAN'S HAND WHICH FORCED US TO SAY WHAT WAS FALSE WAS TRUE, MANY OF THOSE WHO RESOLUTELY RAISED THEIR VOICES OUT OF CONSCIENCE AND THEIR DESIRE FOR JUSTICE WERE PUT IN PRISON UNDER THE PRETEXT THAT THEY HAD VIOLATED THE SO CALLED EMERGENCY MEASURES. BUT THEY WERE CALM AND DIGNIFIED AND SO WERE WE WHO ARE THEIR FAMILIES, AT LEAST SPIRITUALLY, ALTHOUGH PHYSICALLY AND IN OUR DAILY LIVES WE WERE MISERABLE. NOW THAT YOU, WHO WERE AMONG THEM ARE COMING OUT OF THE PRISON, WE SINCERELY WELCOME YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS. HOW ANXIOUSLY HAVE WE WAITED FOR THIS DAY\* HOWEVER, THE WORLD OUTSIDE OF THE PRISON GATE IS THE SAME WORLD OF DARKNESS IN WHICH THEY WERE FORCED TO BECOME DEAF AND MUTE AND BLIND. WORSE STILL, THE PRESENT REGIME IS TALKING ABOUT LENIENCY, ABOUT WHAT STATEMENT THEY HAD WRITTEN OR ABOUT WHAT REPENTANCE THEY HAD SHOWN, MAKING LOUD PROPAGANDA AS IF THE RELEASED PERSONNEL HAD NOW ABANDONED THEIR DEMOCRATIC BELIEF. BUT WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT. THERE IS NOT A SINGLE PERSON WHO WILL BELIEVE IT. THEIR DECLARATION OF CONSCIENCE WILL TESTIFY THEIR UNCHANGING BELIEF. WE FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THEIR RELEASE IS A VICTORY OF THE STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRATIZATION BY OUR DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE AND STUDENTS. TOGETHER WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 SEOUL 06149 01 OF 02 221012Z

THE RELEASED PERSONS, WE INTEND TO MAKE THE RELEASE AN OCCASION TO RECONFIRM OUR DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE OUR STRUGGLE UNTIL RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY, OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND OF HUMAN CONSCIENCE IS COMPLETED IN THIS COUNTRY, AS WE PROMISED EACH OTHER IN THE VERY BEGINNING.

2. THE DETAINED PEOPLE ARE NOT HOSTAGES. IT IS MORE THAN NATURAL THAT THE WRONGS MUST BE CORRECTED AND AN ABNORMAL SITUATION BE NORMALIZED. THAT JUSTICE PREVAILS OVER INJUSTICE IS THE IRON RULE OF HISTORY, THE TRUTH OF GOD'S PREACHING. WE BELIEVE IN THE TRUTH AND THE PREACHING OF GOD. THIS IS THE REASON WE PROMISED TO OURSELVES TO "STAND UPRIGHT ON OUR FEET TO DIE" RATHER THAN "KNEEL TO LIVE" AND TO "DIE TOGETHER OR LIVE TOGETHER." WORLD OPINION IS ALSO ON THE SIDE OF JUSTICE. WE RATHER FEEL PITY FOR THE ILL-CONTAINED RESENTMENT OF THE INCUMBENT REGIME WHICH IS TRYING TO CLAIM THAT THE RULE THAT AN ABNORMAL SITUATION IS NORMALIZED AND THAT JUSTICE TRIUMPHS AS IF IT IS CHARITY BEING DISTRIBUTED BY THE REGIME. IT IS MOST DETESTABLE, HOWEVER, THAT THE INCUMBENT REGIME IS TRYING TO MAKE THE RELEASE OF DETAINED PERSONNEL AN OBJECT OF SOME SORT OF BARGAINING, DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL, AND

IS EVEN FABRICATING SLOVENLY PROCEDURES FOR THE SAKE OF  
MERE FACE SAVING. PROCEDURES AND FACE SAVING ARE JUSTIFIED  
ONLY WHEN ONE IS FAIR AND PROPER. FOR ONE WHO IS UNJUST,  
THE SHORTEST CUT TO SAVE HIS FACE WILL BE TRUE REPENTANCE  
AND SELF-REFLECTION. CONSEQUENTLY, WE MUST NOT OVERLOOK THE  
FACT THAT THERE IS A DANGEROUS AND TREACHEROUS SCHEME  
BEHIND THE RELEASE OF DETAINED PERSONNEL BY THE PRESENT  
REGIME. THAT IS, THE PRESENT REGIME IS TRYING TO TIDE OVER  
THE CRISIS WITH WHICH IT IS CONFRONTED BY MEANS OF SUCH  
DECEPTIVE RELEASE.

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 06149 02 OF 02 221030Z

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

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P R 220842Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5281

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3. WE DEMAND IMMEDIATE UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL DETAINED  
PERSONNEL. IF THE RELEASE OF DETAINED PERSONNEL WAS NOT DUE  
TO A NEW EVIL SCHEME BUT WAS A RESULT OF A JUST DECISION,  
THEN, MOST OF ALL, THE EMERGENCY MEASURES MUST BE REPEALED  
AND ALL THOSE DETAINED IN THEIR ENTIRETY MUST BE RELEASED  
IMMEDIATELY AND UNCONDITIONALLY. AND EFFORTS MUST BE  
DIRECTED, ON A STEP-BY-STEP BASIS, TOWARD DEMOCRATIZATION  
OF OUR FATHERLAND. THOSE WHO MUST BE RELEASED ARE: A) ALL  
OF THE EM NO 9 VIOLATORS, B) ALL OF THOSE EM NO 1 AND NO 4  
VIOLATORS WHO ARE STILL IN DETENTION AND C) THOSE WHO  
HAVE BEEN IMPLICATED IN FABRICATED CASES OF ANTI-COMMUNIST  
LAW VIOLATIONS, THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY, ETC.  
ALSO THE PURSUIT OF THOSE PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN HIDING  
THEMSELVES IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN EM  
CASES OR STUDENT CASES MUST BE STOPPED AT ONCE. FOR THOSE  
WHO HAVE BEEN CONVICTED ON THE BASIS OF FABRICATED EVIDENCE

EXTRACTED THROUGH TORTURE OR NOT THROUGH DUE PROCESS OF OPEN TRIAL, AT LEAST THEIR RETRIAL IN OPEN COURT MUST BE PROVIDED IF THEIR RELEASE AT THIS TIME IS NOT POSSIBLE. WITHOUT THESE ACTIONS, THE RELEASE OF DETAINED PERSONS WILL ONLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 06149 02 OF 02 221030Z

REPEAT THE VICIOUS CIRCLE OF RELEASE AND RE-ARREST. THOSE JOURNALISTS, JUDGES AND PROFESSORS WHO HAVE BEEN CHASED OUT OF THEIR PLACES OF WORK MUST BE REINSTATED AND THOSE STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN EXPELLED FROM THEIR SCHOOLS MUST BE RESTORED TO CAMPUS. INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY UNDER A COMPLETE SEPARATION OF THREE POWERS, FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND FREEDOM OF CAMPUS MUST BE GUARANTEED BECAUSE WITHOUT THEM PERFUNCTORY REINSTATMENT OR RESTORATION TO CAMPUS OF THE EXPELLED PERSONS WILL BE MEANINGLESS.

4. WE SHALL CONTINUE OUR FIGHTING. THROUGH OUR LONG WAITING AND OUR PRAYERS, WE HAVE COME TO REALIZE THAT OUR WAITING WAS NOT JUST FOR REUNION WITH OUR SONS, DAUGHTERS, HUSBANDS OR FATHERS, BUT FOR A COMPLETE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY, OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN CONSCIENCE IN THIS LAND. WE HAVE COME TO REALIZE HOW THORNY A PATH IT IS TO RESTORE DEMOCRACY IN VIEW OF THE NATURE OF THE INCUMBENT REGIME. WE HAVE ALSO LEARNED WHAT AN EVIL REGIME THE INCUMBENT REGIME IS AND TO WHAT EXTENT A MAN CAN BE CRUEL TO OTHER MEN. NEVERTHELESS, WE ARE NOT DISAPPOINTED. THERE ARE STILL DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE WHO CONTINUE TO SPEAK OUT FROM CONSCIENCE, REFUSING TO SUCCUMB TO VIOLENCE, FRAUD OR APPEASEMENT. THERE ARE OUR HUSBANDS, SONS, DAUGHTERS AND FATHERS WHO ARE RESOLUTELY FIGHTING IN PRISON. THERE ARE OUR FREINDS ALL OVER THE WORLD AND THROUGHOUT THIS COUNTRY WHO ARE WITH US, BOUND AS ONE PARCEL WITH CHAINS OF CONSCIENCE. WHAT IS MORE, THE RELEASED PERSONS WILL BE A NEW ADDITION TO OUR STRENGTH. LONG LIVE DEMOCRACY, LONG LIVE FREEDOM\* JULY 18, 1977 ASSOCIATION OF FAMILIES OF ARRESTED PERSONS" SNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

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